

Completing Your Logsheet

- Log your fishing day and have it signed by your sponsor(s).
- You may have up to three sponsors. You may keep a separate logsheet for each sponsor.
- Keep the logsheets in your possession. If something happens to your logsheet, gets misplaced on the boat, etc. you will have nothing to help you document your time.
- You must complete all information on the logsheet.

Completed log sheets must be signed by your local Marine Patrol every 250 hours and received by the License Eligibility Specialist within 30 days of the date the 250th hour was logged.

- Failure to submit within 30 days will result in your documented time not being counted.
- When requesting a Marine Patrol Officer's signature, you must present your apprentice or student license with the completed logsheet.
- Please submit logsheets, signed by Marine Patrol, as they become complete to:

License Eligibility Specialist, Department of Marine Resources, 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021.

- Keep the yellow copy.
- **Do not wait until you have completed all 1,000 hours, 200 days because the time will not count towards the apprentice program.**
- Please call the Licensing Division to request additional logsheets at 624-6550. The logsheets may also be downloaded from <http://www.maine.gov/>

dmr/pamphlets/apprenticelog.pdf

What are the responsibilities of the sponsor of a lobster apprentice?

- The primary purpose of the Lobster Apprentice Program is to ensure that the people entering the fishery understand their responsibilities to the resource and to other fishermen. The Sponsor is looked upon as the individual who will teach the apprentice good fishing practices, local fishing conditions and current laws and regulations.
- Sponsors must purchase their license prior to the apprentice or student being allowed to name that sponsor on his/her license application.
- Sponsors must initial the logsheet daily to certify that the apprentice or student license holder has gained experience. This includes the knowledge of a student fishing his/her own traps. **Please note your license may be suspended for falsification of records if you sign documented time that has not been fished.**
- Sponsors should encourage the apprentice to maintain and keep his/her own logsheets complete and up-to-date.
- Zones C, E & F sponsors shall have held a Class I, II, or III lobster and crab fishing license for at least 5 years to sponsor an apprentice/student license holder in Zone C, E & F.

What happens once my time is documented and completed?

- You must fill out a Zone Declaration Form to declare the lobster zone you wish to fish the majority of your traps (51%).
- If you're in zone C, you may fill out a commercial license application and purchase a commercial lobster license and up to 300 trap tags for that zone.
- If your zone is a "limited-entry" zone, you will be placed on the waiting list for that zone based on your eligibility date. *If you complete the program prior to turning 18, you do not need to go on a waiting list and you may purchase an under 18 commercial lobster license.*

Maine Lobster Apprenticeship Program



**21 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0021
(207) 624-6550**

**Marine Patrol
(207) 624-6571
Division I – (207) 633-9595
Division II – (207) 667-3373**

**License Eligibility Specialist
(207) 624-6549**

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This brochure is designed to answer frequently asked questions pertaining to obtaining a Commercial Lobster and Crab harvesting license. If you have any further questions, please contact the License Eligibility Specialist at the telephone number on the cover.

How do I obtain a Commercial Lobster and Crab harvesting license?

To obtain a Commercial Lobster and Crab harvesting license you must enter the apprentice program. You may enter the apprentice program by purchasing an apprentice license or student license providing you are eligible for a student license. **Effective March 24, 2003** - The apprentice program consists of a minimum of two years, documenting 1,000 hours, 200 fishing days with up to three sponsors. Any day logged consisting of at least 1 hour may be counted toward the apprentice program. Apprentice and student license holders will be given credit for 1 day for every entry made on their log sheet towards the 200 days.

Zones C, E & F apprentices may only enter Zone C, E or F if the apprentice apprenticed in Zone C, E or F. The Zone C, E or F sponsor must have held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license for at least 5 years.

What is the difference between an Apprentice license and a Student license?

- You must be a full-time student under age 23 in order to purchase a student license.
- If you are age 18 and over you must provide DMR with verification of your full-time high school or college enrollment.
- Students can purchase the following amount of tags:
 - 8 – 10 – up to 10 tags
 - 11 – 13 – up to 50 tags
 - 14 – 22 – up to 150 tags.
- Students may document fishing days while fishing their own traps as well as time fishing with their sponsor(s). However, your sponsor(s) must be aware of the time you are fishing your own traps and must sign your logsheets.
- A student and under 18 apprentice license both cost \$56.00; an apprentice license for age 18 and over is \$114.00.
- **Falsification of records may result in license suspension or ability to obtain a commercial lobster license.**

NOTE: On your initial commercial license year you are allowed to purchase 300 tags. You may only purchase 100 additional tags the following year, i.e. if you choose to purchase 100 tags your initial license year, the following year you are only allowed 200 tags.

What are the responsibilities of an Apprentice or Student license holder?

- You must purchase an apprentice or student license **each year** you intend to document time.
- Be sure to obtain an apprentice or student license **prior** to documenting time. Do not document time without a license, as it will not be counted towards the apprentice program.
- Your sponsor must have a current commercial license prior to your obtaining a student or apprentice license.
- **You may document up to 200 hours (20%) gear time of the entire 1000 hours. Gear time does not include boat repairs.**
- Your apprenticeship start date begins on the first fishing or gear day documented with an apprentice or student license.
- The two-year time period, 200 logged days and 1,000 hours must be satisfied to complete the lobster apprenticeship program.
- If a person has finished 200 logged days (1,000 hours), then their eligibility date is the 24 months from the first documented fishing day.
- If a person has been in the program for over 24 months from the first documented fishing day, then the eligibility date is the date the Department receives the completed logs.

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